

FISCAL NOTE

HB 2590 - SB 2910

March 16, 1998

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires health insurance plans and health maintenance organizations to allow women enrollees to designate obstetricians/gynecologists as primary care providers. Also requires that plans allowing an annual visit to a specialist not require a referral for such visit. Requires plans to designate specialists as primary care providers for enrollees with life threatening, chronic, disabling or degenerative conditions that require ongoing specialty care. The TennCare program is exempted from provisions of the bill.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Other Fiscal Impact - Increase Expenditures - Exceeds \$100,000/
Health Insurance Industry***

Assumes an increase in cost to insurers and HMO's to cover higher cost of utilizing specialty providers as primary care providers rather than general practitioners.

The TennCare program is exempted from provisions of the bill.

The enactment of this bill would not directly impact the state employee health insurance plan or most local government plans, since self-insured plans are exempted by Federal law (ERISA).

*The impact on the health insurance industry is included as required by Chapter 244 of the Public Acts of 1989.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

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